

COOPER FAMILY

James Daniel Cooper (1841–1913) moved to Arlington in 1875 and settled on a several hundred acre farm. In 1878, he built a home for his family about four miles outside the western city limit. Five sons, James Newton, William, John, Oscar and Horace were raised on the home place.

Mr. Cooper was one of thirteen men who met at Shultz Lumber Company in 1878 to form the Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church, South (First United Methodist Church). His name is on the cornerstone. He was also an early contributor of land and money to build Arlington College, forerunner of The University of Texas at Arlington.

In the early 1920's, Cooper Street, once a pasture shortcut through the Cooper property, was named in his honor. By this time the property was within the city limits of Arlington.



His son, James Newton Cooper, built the Cooper Hotel in 1928. This historic building still stands on the northwest corner of Division and Center Streets. Two of James Newton's children, Mary and Howard, were life-long residents of Arlington.



Son Horace retained ownership of the original family house until 1953 when the property was sold to UTA. The home was given to the City and was relocated to a site near Meadowbrook Park on Willis Street for use as a library. When a larger library was needed by the City, the home was rented to the Arlington Woman's Club for use as a meeting place. The women cared for it until it was destroyed by a vandal-set fire on Halloween 1998.

The house was designated a Texas Historical Landmark in 1965.

*Inscription by Cooper Neil Tucker,
great grandson of James Daniel Cooper
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Cooper Hotel

Courtesy, Arlington Historical Society

The Cooper House, September 21, 1890

Courtesy, Cooper Neil Tucker